



**N-IMAT LOCATIONS**

EPA Region 6 REOC in Dallas, Texas and  
Corpus Christi/Beaumont-Port Arthur UCPs

**DATES OF RESPONSE**

Aug 29<sup>th</sup> – Sept 12, 2017

**INCIDENT DESCRIPTION**

Hurricane Harvey made landfall at 2300 ET on August 26<sup>th</sup> as a Category 4 storm near Rockport, TX. Harvey stalled over southeastern Texas resulting in flooding in rivers and bayous across southeast TX and southwest LA. In addition to multiple oil spills and infrastructure impacts, the Arkema Chemical plant in Crosby, TX, an RMP-regulated facility, reported fires resulting in the release of various organic peroxides.

On August 27, 2017, U.S. EPA Region 6 requested EPA N-IMAT assistance at the Region 6 REOC in Dallas, TX for Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. N-IMAT BUR 2 deployed to the Region 6 REOC to begin operations on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. In general, N-IMAT BUR 2 filled IMT deputy/assistant positions and worked with the Incident Commander in Region 6 to fulfill the list of tasks articulated in the *N-IMAT Letter of Expectation*. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, N-IMAT personnel fully transitioned to Corpus Christi-Alpha Branch to assist the Region 6 IMT. The OPS Chief made an additional deployment to the Beaumont/Port Arthur-Charlie Branch.

**PERSONNEL**

DIC Steve Spurlin  
SO Melissa Linden  
LNO Ann Whelan  
PIO Terri White  
OPS Christine Wagner  
LSC Serdar Ertep  
FSC Geoffrey Krieger  
PSC Steve Renninger  
RESL Michelle Moyer/James Carew  
SITL Brian Englert  
ENVL Larisa Leonova

**EQUIPMENT**

\*Personal Go-Kits  
\*N-IMAT Team  
Stockpile



*N-IMAT BUR 2 (and Jim Carew, BUR 1) members in  
Corpus Christi-Alpha Branch on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

**RESPONSE ACTIVITIES** *[N-IMAT BUR 2 personnel are filling IMT deputy/assistant positions]*

In addition to those activities listed in the N-IMAT Letter of Expectation, N-IMAT personnel assisted in completing the following tasks:

- \*Distributing and updating management objectives
- \*Reaching out to the State of TX LNO and establishing an RRT website
- \*Assisting regional PIO and developing talking points for field responders
- \*Developing HASPs for Houston and Corpus Christi and verifying responders' safety training status
- \*Establishing daily cost-tracking mechanisms and helping with IGCE/SOW for contractors
- \*Developing communications plan and deployment notice
- \*Developing burn rates (REOC and N-IMAT) and mission assignment summaries; pay cap limit reviews
- \*Facilitating daily Command and General Staff briefings in the Region 6 REOC
- \*Facilitating daily Planning Cycle meetings at the Corpus Christi Unified Command Post
- \*Developing check in/out procedure, implementing asset tracker for EPA personnel
- \*Developing Superfund site map, drafting ICS 207 forms, maintaining response.epa.gov website
- \*Developing sampling plans for surface/drinking water, and soils; analyzing IMAAC modeling for Arkema



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Provide more robust coordination in HQ for filling individual N-IMAT staffing gaps, while maintaining coordination with the deployed N-IMAT DIC. N-IMAT Coordinator and HQ OEM should also coordinate known staffing changes through the respective regional Removal Managers & N-IMAT 1<sup>st</sup> line supervisors to ensure all relevant parties are apprised on current staffing requests/deployments.
- To the extent possible, maintain N-IMAT personnel in same response organization to help deployed N-IMAT personnel function cohesively and under N-IMAT's general mission rather than separating personnel to fill staffing needs across multiple ICS organizations.
- Discuss if medical monitoring should be a requirement or encouraged for N-IMAT personnel to avoid health and safety concerns if deployed to the field.
- Develop formal "deactivation" process in the N-IMAT SOPs so impacted Region(s) and N-IMAT have a clear process for demobilizing a deployed BUR and for memorializing that an additional BUR deployment is not needed for the same incident response in that Region.
- Given that N-IMAT members are also OSCs, RSCs, and/or IMT staff that regularly fill roles to aid in incident response, determine how long N-IMAT members on callback status should remain available to the N-IMAT for potential deployment rather than deploying as an OSC/RSC/IMT staff through backup regional sharing agreements or as otherwise trained KLP-personnel. Memorialize this decision in the *N-IMAT Operating Manual*.



*Planning Meeting in Corpus Christi – Alpha  
Branch on September 5, 2017*



*Flooded facility in Beaumont/Port Arthur-Charlie  
Branch (taken by OPS Chris Wagner during overflight)*

## FUTURE EVENTS

On September 7, 2017, Region 6, N-IMAT BUR 2, and HQ memorialized in a letter that the N-IMAT should be deactivated from Region 6's Hurricane Harvey response, including that N-IMAT BUR 2 would demobilize from Corpus Christi (and other locations) no later than September 12<sup>th</sup>. No future BUR deployments are anticipated in Region 6 for the Hurricane Harvey response.